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# Message Text

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44
ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 R

DRAFTED BY:AF:I:DWKEOGH
APPROVED BY:AF:I:DAZACHARY
---------- 109143
R 151619Z APR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y CHANGE ADDEE LILONGWE VICE
BLANTYRE.

3.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XA, US
SUBJECT: CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS: ISSUE14 , APRIL 15,
1976
1. THE FOLLOWING IS AF CONTRIBUTION TO ISSUE NUMBER14
OF CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR POST INFORMATION. FULL
TEXT OF CFR BEING POUCHED PER REGULAR SCHEDULES.
2. BEGIN QUOTE:
AF - AID TO THE SAHEL: US INITIATIVES
THE SAHEL DROUGHT OF 1967-1974 FOCUSED ATTENTION ON THE
FRAGILITY OF THE REGION'S ECOSYSTEM. IT QUICKLY WAS
RECOGNIZED THAT ONLY A MAJOR INVESTMENT IN THE INFRA-
STRUCTURE OF THE AREA WOULD PROTECT ITS INHABITANTS FROM
THE REPEATED THREAT OF FAMINE AS DROUGHT REOCCURRED.
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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN DROUGHT RELIEF FACILITATED
DISCUSSION OF A LONG TERM SOLUTION TO THE SAHEL'S CHRONIC
EXTERNAL DEPENDENCE AND EXPOSURE TO RECURRENT DISASTER.
MAURITANIA, NIGER, MALI AND CHAD FORMED THE INTERSTATE
COMMITTEE FOR THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE SAHEL DROUGHT

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(CILSS) TO COORDINATE THEIR PLANNING. WITH US ENCOURAGE-
MENT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MAURICE
;ILLIAMS SERVED AS CATALYST IN BRINGING CILSS MEMBERS
AND DONORS TOGETHER IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS TO DISCUSS
THE MODALITIES OF LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT. THESE SESSIONS
CULMINATED MARCH 29-31 AT DAKAR WHEN THE SAHEL AND
DONOR STATES, MEETING TOGETHER AS LE CLUB DES AMIS DU
SAHEL, DECIDED TO ESTABLISH WORKING GROUPS TO FORMULATE
PROPOSALS FOR MEDIUM AND LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.
SYMPATHY FOR E DROUGHT VICTIMS WAS WIDESPREAD IN THE
US, AND CONGRESS WAS GENEROUS IN APPROPRIATING APPROXI-
MATELY $250 MILLION IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. CONGRESS
HAS RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR A LONGER TERM SOLUTION. THE
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION FOR 1974 AUTHORIZED AID
TO PREPARE A COMPREHENSIVE LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
FOR THE SAHEL, WHICH IS DUE TO BE PRESENTED TO CONGRESS
BY APRIL 30. AID WILL SEEK OMB AND CONGRESSIONAL
APPROVAL FOR AUTHORIZATION OF $300 MILLION IN FY 1978-79
FOR THE UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN A NEW INTER-
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM FOR THE SAHEL.
IN THE MEANWHILE, CONGRESS HAS APPROVED FUNDING
INCREASES WHICH HAVE ALLOWED AID TO EXPAND ITS PROGRAMS
TO THE SAHEL FROM A PREDROUGHT LEVEL OF $15 MILLION TO
THE CURRENT $60 MILLION PER ANNUM.
AID'S APRIL 30 REPORT WILL EMPHASIZE THAT LACK OF TRAIN-
ED MANPOWER PRECLUDES RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF THE SAHEL.
AID BELIEVES PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN THE INTEGRATED
DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAJOR RIVER AND LAKE BASINS. WITH THE
PRIMARY OBJECTIVE A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE
REGION'S FOOD PRODUCTION CAPACITY. THIS WILL TAKE TIME,
PROBABLY MORE THAN A DECADE. IN THE MEANTIME, THE
MEDIUM TERM EFFORT WILL CONCENTRATE ON BROAD BASED
IMPROVEMENT OF DRY-LAND AGRICULTURE. OTHER COUNTRIES
AND INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAVE INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO
PARTICIPATE IN THIS EFFORT INCLUDE FRANCE, WEST GERMANY,
CANADA, THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, THE WORLD BANK,
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UNDP, THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE ARAB BANK
FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT. KISSINGER

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**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS: ISSUE14 , APRIL 15,
**TAGS:** PFOR, XA, US, CT
**To:** BANGUI
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LOME
MAPUTO

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MASERU
MBABANE
OUAGADOUGOU
PORT LOUIS
**Type:** TE
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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